



ACIA

Happenings

Ivy Point, Pinehurst, Club Point, Golf Villas, The Shores, The Pines and Estates of Pinehurst

May 2018

Official Newsletter of the Atascocita Community Improvement Association

Volume 8, Issue 5

ATTENTION PARENTS OF GRADUATING SENIORS!

We would like to recognize our graduating seniors by including a small picture and a few lines about where your child will be attending college. Please send your information to articles@peelinc.com (include the newsletter you would like to recognize them in, photo, name, etc).



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NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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Pickled Fig, Pistachio, and Ricotta Canapes

FOR PICKLED FIGS

12 dried black Mission figs sliced into thin disks
 1 Cup red wine vinegar
 ¼ cup sugar
 3 sprigs fresh thyme

In a small pot, combine figs, vinegar, sugar, thyme and ½ cup water. Bring to a simmer over medium heat about 5 minutes. Remove from heat and cover. Let the figs steep for 2 hours OR overnight in the fridge.

FOR CANAPES

1 cup whole ricotta cheese
 24 of your favorite crackers
 Olive oil
 Sea salt
 Honey for drizzling
 ½ cup of pistachios (lightly crushed)
 Fresh thyme for garnish

DIRECTIONS

Spread about 1 heaping teaspoon of ricotta on each cracker. Place the pickled figs (one or two) per cracker atop the ricotta. Then top with olive oil, sea salt, a drizzle of honey and a hefty sprinkle of the crushed pistachios. Finish with fresh thyme leaves and serve immediately.

YIELD: 24 mini tartines

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MOSQUITO REPELLENTS

As mosquito season is ramping up, everyone is (hopefully) aware of possible disease transmission by mosquitoes. It is important that you protect yourself when spending time outside.

Activity times for mosquitoes can vary. Most people are familiar with the four D's- DRAIN (standing water), DEET (wear some repellent), DUSK & DAWN (stay indoors during dusk and dawn to avoid peak populations) and DRESS (wear long sleeves and long pants). While this is still good advice, it may be a good idea to spread the dress and repellent advice for anytime you spend time outdoors.

When outside, wear long pants and a long sleeved shirt in light colors to reduce the number of mosquitoes that can reach your skin. Repellent should only be applied to clothing and exposed skin. Do not apply repellent underneath clothing! If you want to apply repellent to your face, spray your hands with repellent and rub it onto your face. Do not spray repellent directly into your face or near eyes or mouth. Make sure to apply repellent outdoors. Do not allow children to handle repellents. Wash hands before eating, smoking or using the restroom.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends using a product registered with the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)

containing one of the following active ingredients: DEET, picaridin, IR3535 and some of the products containing oil of lemon eucalyptus.

DEET, also known N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide or N,N-dimethylbenzamide, was developed by the U.S. Army in 1946 to protect soldiers in insect-infested areas. Pesticides containing DEET have been used by the general public since 1957. Products containing DEET should not be used on children younger than 2 months of age (read the label and check with your pediatrician if you have questions). DEET has a slight odor and may have a greasy feel to some people. It may damage plastic, rubber, vinyl or synthetic fabrics. DEET may be irritating to the eyes and skin for some people. DEET comes in a wide variety of concentrations, so choose the one that will work best for your situation.

Picaridin was first made in the 1980's and resembles a natural compound called piperine (which is found in plants used to produce black pepper). Picaridin has been used in Europe and Australia for many years, but has only been in the U.S. since 2005. Picaridin is non-greasy and is odorless.

IR-3535, or 3-[N-Butyl-N- acetyl]-aminopropionic acid, ethyl

(Continued on Page 5)



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(Continued from Page 4)

ester, was developed in the mid- 1970's and became registered for use in the U.S. in 1999. It is registered as a biopesticide by the EPA because it is functionally identical to a naturally occurring substance (an amino-acid). It may dissolve or damage plastics and may be irritating to the eyes.

Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) or PMD (para-menthane-3,8-diol) are essentially the same thing; PMD is the synthesized (lab created) version of oil of lemon eucalyptus. "Pure" or "essential" oil of lemon eucalyptus is not labeled as a repellent and has not undergone testing and should not be used as a repellent product. OLE/PMD has been on the market in the U.S. since 2002. OLE/PMD should not be used on children younger than 3 years of age. The natural product (OLE) has known allergens within it while the synthetic version (PMD) has less of a risk to allergens. This product is classified as a biopesticide. OLE/PMD has a varying range of residual, some offering about 20 minutes of protection while other products may last up to two hours.

Many factors play into how long a repellent will last for a person. Some of these are:

- The concentration (or percent of active ingredient) of the product. You can find the percentage on the product label.
- Person's attractiveness. Some people are more attractive to

mosquitoes than others (and no scientific research has proven that it is because of eating garlic, taking vitamin B, using tobacco products, etc.). A person's genetic code plays a large part on what makes a person so attractive to mosquitoes.

- Frequency and uniformity of application. In other words, how often is the repellent applied and how good of coverage did you get?
- Activity level of the person. The more active the person is, the more sweat they produce which can cause the repellent to wash off the surface of the skin.

As a word of caution, there are products that combine sunscreen and insect repellent. The CDC recommends that if you need sunscreen and repellent, that you choose two separate products. Sunscreen should be applied more often than repellents.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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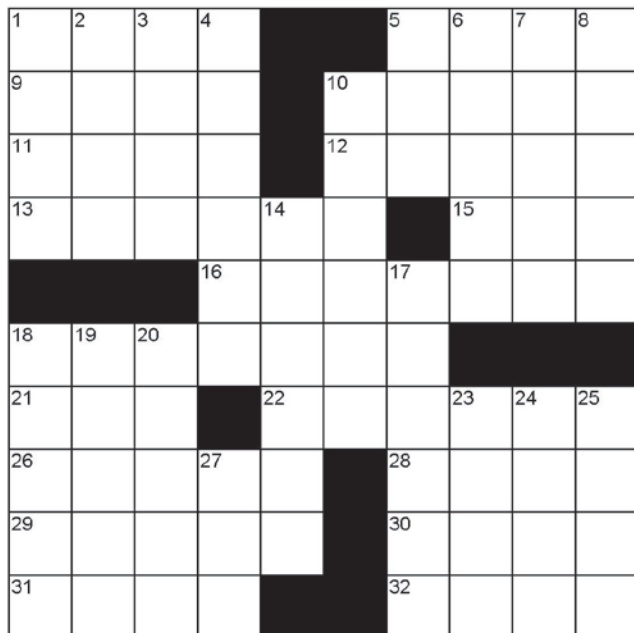
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

1. Cleaning agent
5. Welt
9. Factual
10. Raise one's shoulders
11. Gain
12. Making a knot
13. Opposite of cubic
15. Pride
16. Passes
18. Dress up
21. Dined
22. Wagerer
26. ___ Gras
28. Possess
29. Rock and Roll "King"
30. Spread
31. Flow out slowly
32. Goody two shoes

DOWN

1. Stair
2. Spoken
3. Nimbus
4. Enclosed
5. Reporter's question
6. Sign of the zodiac
7. Surge
8. Kellogg's waffles
10. Shoot from a plane
14. Excuses
17. Type of snake
18. Ladies
19. Dickens' "___ of Two Cities" (2 wds.)
20. Sensitive point
23. Record
24. Above
25. Rip
27. Sink

View answers online at www.peelinc.com

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THE HISTORY OF MEMORIAL DAY



Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. Over two dozen cities and towns claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day. While Waterloo N.Y. was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966, it's difficult to prove conclusively the origins of the day.

Regardless of the exact date or location of its origins, one thing is clear – Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War and a desire to honor our dead. It was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11. “The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land,” he proclaimed. The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle.

On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there.

The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war).

It is now observed in almost every state on the last Monday in May with Congressional passage of the National Holiday Act of 1971. This helped ensure a three day weekend for Federal holidays, though several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19th in Texas; April 26th in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10th in South Carolina; and June 3rd (Jefferson Davis' birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee.

In 1915, inspired by the poem “In Flanders Fields,” Moina Michael replied with her own poem:

We cherish too, the Poppy red

*That grows on fields where valor led,
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies.*

She then conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. She was the first to wear one, and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit servicemen in need. Later a Madam Guerin from France was visiting the United States and learned of this new custom started by Ms. Michael. When she returned to France she made artificial red poppies to raise money for war orphaned children and widowed women. This tradition spread to other countries. In 1921, the Franco-American Children's League sold poppies nationally to benefit war orphans of France and Belgium. The League disbanded a year later and Madam Guerin approached the VFW for help.

Shortly before Memorial Day in 1922 the VFW became the first veterans' organization to nationally sell poppies. Two years later their “Buddy” Poppy program was selling artificial poppies made by disabled veterans. In 1948 the US Post Office honored Ms. Michael for her role in founding the National Poppy movement by issuing a red 3 cent postage stamp with her likeness on it.



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WHEN IS A RABBIT NOT A RABBIT?

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center

Life is pretty tough for rabbits. It seems like everything wants to eat them. Bobcats, coyotes, raptors and even snakes. The Eastern Cottontail, which is the most common in our area, is lucky if it lives two years in the wild. Thank goodness they are prolific reproducers. Cottontails begin breeding as early as two months old and can have up to seven litters in one year, although they usually have three or four.

There are three native wild rabbits in Texas and one hare: the eastern cottontail, swamp rabbit, desert cottontail and the black-tailed jackrabbit. The jackrabbit is actually a hare. However, they all belong to the Lagomorpha order of mammals. Hares are larger animals and have longer ears. A hare's pregnancy lasts 42 days. Newborn hares are called leverets and are fully developed at birth, born with fur and eyes open. Mom doesn't build a nest but can deliver her young in something as simple as a depression in the ground. Babies are able to hop around shortly after birth. Female rabbits give birth after about 30 days. They build a nest three to four inches deep and about eight inches across. They line the nest and cover it with soft dead grass and some of her own fur. Newborn rabbits are called kits or kittens and are born with eyes closed and no fur.

Compassionate people with good intentions will sometimes

"kidnap" baby rabbits thinking they have been abandoned or that something has happened to mama rabbit. Mom only feeds her young at dusk and dawn so chances are, you probably won't see her. If the babies are warm and appear to be well fed, she's taking care of them. Just to be sure, here are a few things you can try. Place string or yarn in the shape of an "X" on top of the nest in the late afternoon. You can also encircle the nest with flour. In the morning, check the nest. If the string or flour has been disturbed, Mom has been there taking care of her kits.

With spring comes lawn-mowing. A WORD OF CAUTION: if you see small "dead" sections of grass in your lawn, check it out before mowing. It may be a nest of baby rabbits. If it is a nest, you can simply lift the top layer of dead grass to reveal sleeping babies. Please leave them alone! They will be gone in a couple of weeks. Please be sure to protect nests from your dogs, too. If your dog discovers a nest, you can cover it with a wheelbarrow or fencing making sure there is an entrance point just large enough for Mom to go in and out and strong enough so the dog can't tear it down. There are other options, too. Just do a little research on the internet.



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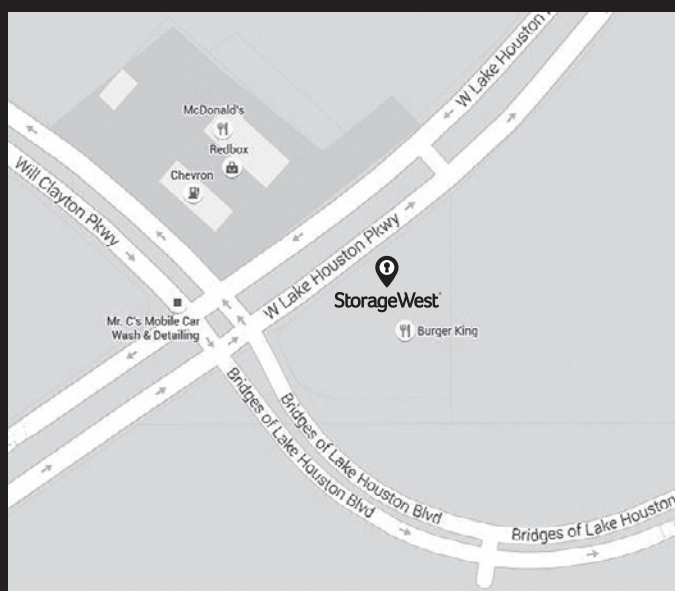
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Summer is HERE! What better way to enjoy the season than with 5 affordable fun activities to do in Houston?

- 1. From May 25th -28th (Memorial Weekend)** there's a 3 parks, one pass special for just \$49.99 where you can enjoy limitless visits to Pleasure Pier, Kemah Boardwalk, and the Downtown Aquarium. For more information visit The Kemah Boardwalk website.
- 2. On May 12th The Houston Zoo** is hosting "Zoo Overnight : Nocturnal Nights." During this time, you can spend the night! Get acquainted with the animals of the night. Learn about the nocturnal life they live during an evening hike. The zoo will provide you with snacks, breakfast, and next day admission along with an indoor camping experience.
- 3. Houston Space Center:** Did you know that every Friday and Saturday, you can have the opportunity to meet a real Astronaut?? You can even participate in a Q&A with one! You can find out more about pricing and details of the experience at the Houston Space Center website.
- 4. Miller Outdoor Theatre** is open every March through November. Here, you can enjoy a variety of performances. The theater is located in Hermann Park. You can bring your own beverages and snacks as well! Guess what, it's FREE!!!
- 5. Blaffer Art Museum** is located on the University of Houston campus. Admission is FREE. This modern museum offers a variety of different exhibits that can change throughout the year.



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